



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Radio Report #06. Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK, June 17-18, 2003.

This is Paul Salomone with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with a fisheries announcement for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

The department's test fishing project detected a pulse of chinook salmon beginning Wednesday June 11 and continued through Saturday June 14. The pulse peaked on Thursday June 12 with a catch of 238 chinook salmon and a CPUE of 2.48. This large pulse of fish was also observed at Pilot Station on June 14. The passage at Pilot station through June 16 are approximately 128,000 chinook and 123,000 summer chum salmon.

Reports from subsistence fishers indicate that the majority of fishers in Districts Y-1 and Y-2 have fulfilled their chinook salmon needs and are now targeting summer chum salmon. At this time, results are not available from the District Y-1 commercial period.

Based on the preseason management strategy and the current abundance of chinook salmon, a commercial fishing period will open in District Y-2 on Wednesday June 18. The first commercial fishing period in District Y-2 will be from 6 p.m. Wednesday June 18 until 12:00 Midnight Wednesday June 18. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. To repeat, a commercial fishing period will be allowed in District Y-2 from 6 p.m. Wednesday June 18 until 12:00 Midnight Wednesday June 18. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. We will be assessing the run to determine if additional commercial fishing is warranted in the future. Subsistence fishers are reminded that the requirement to remove the dorsal fin of subsistence caught salmon is now in effect for Districts Y-1, Y-2 and Y-3.

For subsistence, the current board of fish schedule will be relaxed, and revert to the pre-2001 subsistence fishing regulations, incrementally up river. For District Y-1, subsistence fishing will be open today June 17 at 3:00 p.m. and in District Y-2 subsistence fishing will be open beginning June 19th at 12:00 noon. In Districts Y-1 and Y-2 after these times, subsistence fishing will be open except for 18 hours before, during and 12 hours after commercial fishing periods. District Y-3 is still on the subsistence fishing schedule this week. Again, the board of fish subsistence fishing schedule will be relaxed progressively upriver similar to the timing that the schedule was implemented. Fishers should stay tuned for upcoming announcements.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult State of Alaska commercial fishing regulations before fishing in the Yukon Area.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Emmonak 949-1320. The Fish and Game office stands by on VHF channel 7a.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

___KICY 443-2213

___KNOM 443-5221

___KYUK 543-3131